

HALIBUT CHARTER MANAGEMENT

In February 2000, the Council took final action to redefine the halibut charter guideline harvest level (GHL) and approved accompanying management measures to implement the GHL. It also initiated a regulatory amendment and approved forming an industry committee to develop elements and options for the addition of halibut charter participants to the current halibut IFQ program.

GHL

- The Council set the Area 2C and 3A GHLs based on the average of 1995-99 in pounds (1.4 M lb in Area 2C and 3.91 M lb in Area 3A).
- Regulations will reduce the area GHLs in proportion to reductions in area abundance (as best determined by the IPHC) based on the average of 1999-2000 in a stair-step fashion. The first step reduction is 15% (e.g., from 1.40 to 1.19 M lb in Area 2C), additional 10% step reductions will occur as needed (e.g., from

Baseline	Charter GHL @ 125% (x1000 lb)	Revised GHL based on stair step reductions		
		Step 1(x1000 lb): 15% Reduction	Step 2 (x1000 lb): 10% Reduction	Step 3: (x1000 lb) 10% Reduction
2C Average (95-99)	1.40	1.19	1.07	0.96
3A Average (95-99)	3.91	3.32	2.99	2.69

1.19 to 1.07 M lb). This approach is responsive to changes in abundance. The stair-step smooths out the problem of annual variation posed by a strict percentage- based system.

- When the abundance returns to the pre-reduction level, then the GHL would step back up (e.g., from 1.19 to 1.40 M lb in Area 2C).

Management measures

- Management measures, for when harvest exceeds the GHL, are outlined in the attached area matrices. These measures would be removed if harvests fall below the GHL and they are no longer necessary.
- If the GHL is exceeded, 0-20% reduction measures (e.g., trip limits, prohibiting harvest by skipper and crew) would be implemented in the season following the overage. In years of >20% overage, measures that are projected to achieve 0-20% reduction in charter harvest would be implemented in the following season and measures that are projected to achieve >20% reduction in charter harvest (e.g., annual limits, one fish bag limit in August) would be implemented one year later to allow for verification of charter harvest.
- The regulations will establish a framework process to review and adjust the management measures in the event of an overage and to evaluate their efficacy to determine if a subsequent regulatory package is necessary.

IFQs

The Council will fast-track development of a regulatory amendment to the current halibut IFQ program which incorporates the guided sport fishery. A committee of industry members, NMFS, Council, and ADF&G staff will refine and develop elements and options for this IFQ program. The committee will report back to the Council at its April 2000 meeting in Anchorage. Nominations for the committee are requested in writing by February 25, 2000. The meeting is tentatively scheduled in Anchorage for sometime in mid- to late March 2000.

A preliminary analysis on including the charter sector in the current halibut IFQ program will be scheduled for the Council in October 2000. Initial review and final action will be scheduled for December 2000 and February 2001, respectively. Participation histories will be based on the 1998 and 1999 ADF&G charter logbooks, as received by February 12, 2000. 2000 logbooks will not be used as the basis of the IFQ system. If adopted, a charterboat IFQ system could not be in place any earlier than 2002, and more likely 2003.

MORATORIUM

The Council voted to not proceed with area-wide (2C and 3A) moratoria for the halibut charter fleet at this time, but will send a letter to the Board of Fisheries supporting continued development of moratoria within the **LAMP** process for local areas where they are needed. The Council will review BOF progress in development of local moratoria within the LAMP process and the analysis of the charter IFQ amendment in February 2001. The Council has also scheduled reconsideration of the current area-wide moratorium analysis, updated to reflect recent participation, for final action in February 2001 as a separate possible action, pending its action on the charter IFQ amendment.

Lastly, the Council deleted **lodges and outfitters** from its problem statement since it does not have the ability to include halibut harvested on unguided boats (bare-boat charters) under the GHL.

Area 2C Management Tools

<u>Required Reduction</u>	<u>Management Tool</u>
<10%	Trip Limit
10% - 15%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew
15% - 20%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 7 Fish
20% - 30%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 6 Fish
30% - 40%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 5 Fish
40% - 50%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 4 Fish
>50%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 4 Fish One Fish Bag Limit in August

Area 3A Management Tools

<u>Required Reduction</u>	<u>Management Tool</u>
<10%	Trip Limit
10% - 20%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew
20% - 30%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 7 Fish
30% - 40%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 6 Fish
40% - 50%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 5 Fish
>50%	Trip Limit No Harvest by Skipper and Crew Annual Limit of 4 Fish One Fish Bag Limit in August